

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Currently Amended) The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim **[[2]]** 5, wherein the cross-sectional aspect ratio is greater than 5:1.
4. (Currently Amended) The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim **[[3]]** 5, wherein the cross-sectional aspect ratio is greater than 10:1.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 1~~ A furnace heating element comprising a heating section comprising an extruded silicon carbide strip having a cross sectional aspect ratio greater than 3:1, which further comprises and non-strip form cold ends.
6. Cancelled.
7. (Currently Amended) The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim **[[1]]** 5, wherein the strip comprises a planar portion and a portion that is bent out of the plane of the planar portion.
8. (Currently Amended) The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim **[[1]]** 5, in which the strip is generally U-shaped.
9. (Currently Amended) The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim **[[1]]** 5, wherein at least a portion of the strip has a curved cross-section.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 1~~ A furnace heating element comprising a heating section comprising an extruded silicon carbide strip having a cross sectional aspect ratio greater than 3:1, wherein ~~in which~~ the heating section comprises a recrystallised self-bonded silicon carbide material
11. (Currently Amended) ~~The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 1~~ A furnace heating element comprising a heating section comprising an extruded silicon carbide strip having a cross sectional aspect ratio greater than 3:1, wherein ~~in which~~ the heating element comprises reaction bonded or reaction sintered silicon carbide.
12. (Currently Amended) A method of making a furnace heating element comprising a heating section comprising an extruded silicon carbide strip having a cross sectional aspect ratio greater than 3:1, the method as ~~claimed in Claim 1~~, comprising:
extruding a heating section strip preform, and
bending the extruded preform to shape prior to drying or firing.
13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 12, further comprising
separately forming cold ends, and
joining the separately formed cold ends to the heating section.
14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 12, further comprising integrally forming cold ends with the heating section.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 12, further comprising recrystallizing the heating section, to form a self-bonded silicon carbide material.
16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the material of the extruded preform is such that the final product will comprise reaction bonded or reaction sintered silicon carbide.
17. (Currently Amended) ~~The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 1~~ A furnace heating element comprising a heating section comprising an extruded silicon carbide strip having a cross sectional aspect ratio greater than 3:1, wherein the strip is hollow.
18. (Currently Amended) The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim ~~[[4]]~~ 5, wherein the cross-sectional aspect ratio is around 12:1.
19. (New) The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the strip comprises a planar portion and a portion that is bent out of the plane of the planar portion.
20. (New) The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 10, in which the strip is generally U-shaped.
21. (New) The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 10, wherein at least a portion of the strip has a curved cross-section.
22. (New) The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the cross sectional aspect ratio is greater than 5:1.
23. (New) The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the cross sectional aspect ratio is greater than 10:1.

24. (New) The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the strip comprises a planar portion and a portion that is bent out of the plane of the planar portion.
25. (New) The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 11, in which the strip is generally U-shaped.
26. (New) The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 11, wherein at least a portion of the strip has a curved cross-section.
27. (New) The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the cross sectional aspect ratio is greater than 5:1.
28. (New) The furnace heating element as claimed in Claim 27, wherein the cross sectional aspect ratio is greater than 10:1.